UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Egypt

Monthly Operational Update

December 2025

1,013,800 individuals were provided with registration appointments since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023.

Mohamed Osama, a Syrian refugee, recently graduated from Helwan University in Cairo, through the DAFI program.
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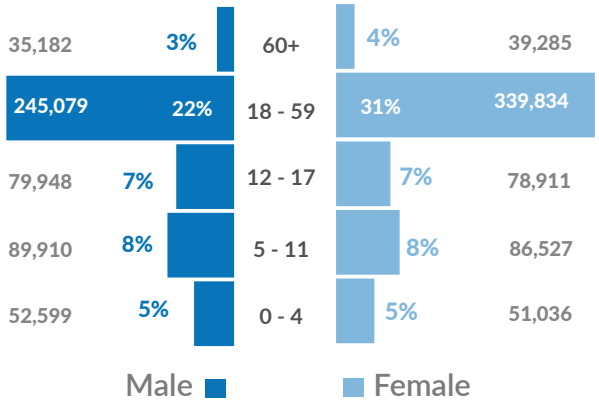
1,098,311 Registered population

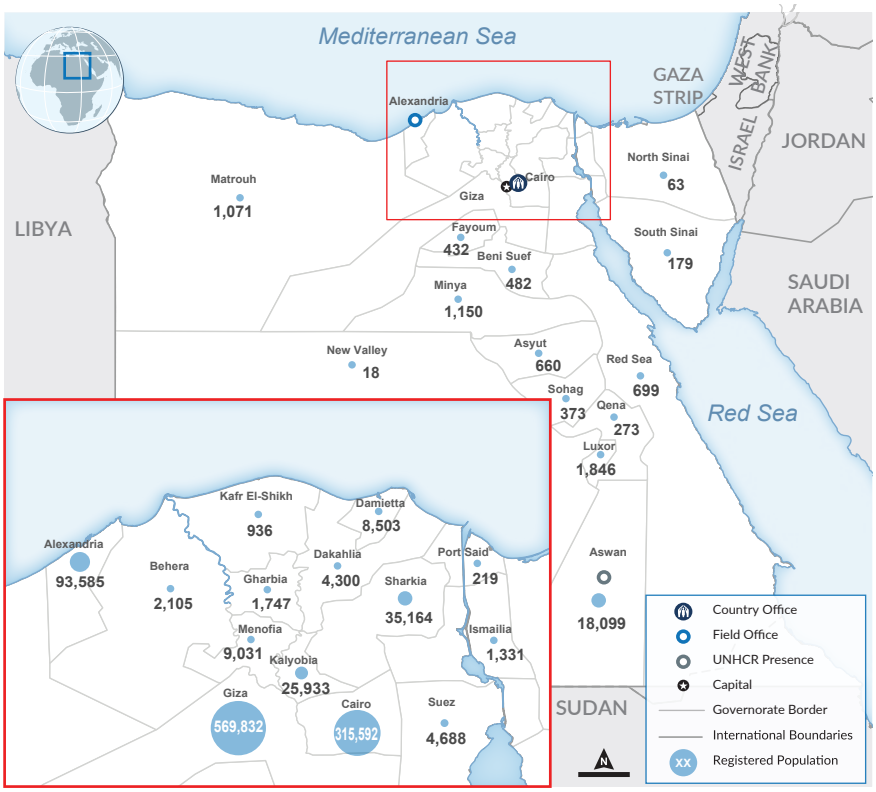
440,257 Registered households

74.5% Women and children

19.29% Persons with specific needs

Gender and age of registered population





LATEST DEVELOPMENTS – HIGHLIGHTS

- On 16 December, UNHCR participated in the signing of a new Canada-funded Integrated Support and Protection Program for Refugee Women and Girls in Egypt. Egypt's Minister of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation and the Ambassador of Canada in the presence of the UNHCR Representative signed an agreement on Canada's contribution to UNHCR which will support the protection of women and girls in Egypt through integrated protection and livelihood initiatives.

- On 12 December, UNHCR Egypt launched a new Resettlement Portal that enables refugees to check the status of their resettlement cases online. Designed to enhance transparency and streamline communication, the portal underwent extensive testing, reviewing over 1,000 cases to ensure accuracy across multiple scenarios. It offers multilingual support in English, Arabic, Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali, and Oromo to meet the diverse linguistic needs of refugee communities in Egypt. In addition to real-time case updates, the platform features a comprehensive FAQ section that explains each stage of the resettlement process, providing refugees with clear and accessible information.

- On 10 December, UNHCR and its education partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) hosted the annual DAFI Scholarship celebration for the 2024-2025 academic year, honouring refugee scholars' achievements in higher education. The event brought together DAFI scholars, UNHCR, and CRS officials. The event commenced with speeches the German and Danish embassies, followed by UNHCR and CRS representatives, in addition to speeches from DAFI graduates and high academic achievers. The celebration concluded with the recognition of students who demonstrated exceptional engagement in the scholarship activities.

Protection and Solutions

Registration

In December 2025, UNHCR Egypt registered around 18,800 new refugees and asylum-seekers, 78% of whom were Sudanese nationals. Smaller numbers include other nationalities (22%) and Syrians (less than 1%).

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, UNHCR Egypt has provided registration appointments to 1,013,800 individuals who fled the country. Of these, 804,544 people (79%) have been fully registered to receive protection and assistance.

Since the fall of the former Government of Syria, Syrians started approaching UNHCR in greater numbers to request the closure of their asylum cases. Between 8 December 2024 and 30 December 2025, 12, 865 closure requests involving around 28,743 individuals were submitted, including on-the-spot closures. Among applicants who closed their files, 62% were male. In terms of origin, 40% came from Damascus, 27% from Rural Damascus, 13% from Homs, 8% from Aleppo, and 12% from other Syrian locations.

As of 31 December, the total registered population is 1,098,311 individuals, including those who arrived in Egypt before the conflict, with the following breakdown: 834,201 Sudanese (76%), 146,746 of other nationalities (13%), and Syrians 117,364 (11%). Women make up 54% of the registered population.

Community-Based Protection (CBP)

In December, 16,323 refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals from Sudan, received information on services, assistance, and procedures for reporting fraud and complaints from outreach community workers at UNHCR's Reception Centre in 6th of October City, Greater Cairo. In addition, over the same period, UNHCR's partner Terre des hommes (Tdh) provided on-the-spot basic psychosocial support to 6,970 individuals, out of whom 63 cases were referred for in-depth psycho-social assessment and another 178 fast-tracked for further urgent assistance.

Additionally, UNHCR provided counselling to 451 refugees, including 246 who received in-person counselling, while the rest were assisted through remote sessions.

On 30 December, UNHCR celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at Maadi Community Centre. The event featured a laptop recognition ceremony, awarding five laptops to persons with disabilities for outstanding educational and professional achievements. Inspiring success stories were shared, including one from a caregiver of three children with disabilities. The celebration included child-friendly activities, giveaways, and entertainment, creating an inclusive atmosphere. Organized in partnership with Tdh, the event brought together refugees, partners, and UNHCR staff to honour the contributions of persons with disabilities in the refugee community.

On 10 December, UNHCR participated in the high-level event “Advancing Disability Inclusion in Egypt: From Global Commitments to National Action” in Cairo. The event featured opening remarks from senior representatives of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Egypt. Key discussions addressed Egypt’s legislative framework, UN mapping of certain initiatives and panel sessions with national actor.

Legal and Physical Protection (LPP)

In December, 2,016 individuals received legal counselling sessions through UNHCR and partners, concerning early and late birth registration, filing legal reports, divorce, custody, and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR provided LPP case management for 492 refugees.

Prevention and Response to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

On 7 December, UNHCR attended an event organized by a UNHCR partner as part of the 16 Days of Activism against VAWG, titled “وردة الحياة” (Rose of Life). The event brought together 25 women for an interactive program focused on psychological empowerment and preventing violence against women and girls. Activities included art therapy, games to build positive coping mechanisms, and awareness sessions on available protection services. The initiative provided

Refugees and Egyptians came together for a social cohesion event organized by Life Makers, UNHCR’s partner, featuring a performance by a Syrian folklore band. ©UNHCR/Mahmoud Kamal

a safe space for sharing experiences and fostering resilience, with the core message that every woman has the strength to stand against violence, reclaim her power, and flourish.

Child Protection

On 17 December, UNHCR Alexandria met with the newly appointed Branch Manager of the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood (NCCM) to explore opportunities for enhanced collaboration. Discussions focused on strengthening child protection and ensuring refugee children's inclusion in NCCM services, alongside potential joint capacity-building initiatives.

Infoline

In December, UNHCR Egypt's Infoline responded to 20,718 inquiries. Additionally, 3,032 individuals fleeing the conflict in Sudan secured registration appointments through the Infoline. Since the crisis began, a total of 609,647 people have successfully been scheduled with appointments using this system.

Education

Between 21 and 31 December, UNHCR continued efforts to strengthen the Instant Network Schools (INS) program in Egypt. Activities included follow-up on the refurbishment of new INS schools, enhancing coordination with Vodafone Foundation Egypt, and advancing handover planning with the Ministry of Education to ensure a smooth transition of the program by 2026. UNHCR also worked closely with partners to address technical issues promptly, ensuring uninterrupted access to digital learning opportunities for students.

UNHCR, through its education partner CRS, finalized interviews with parents of refugee children who applied to receive the standard education cash grants for the academic year 2025-2026. As of December, the partner interviewed parents of approximately 82,000 refugee students, of whom 80% are of Sudanese nationality, with smaller percentages from other nationalities.

Livelihood

On 2, 17, and 23 December in Alexandria, Cairo, and Aswan, UNHCR in partnership with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) held several graduation ceremonies to celebrate the successful completion of vocational and skills development programmes implemented in partnership with the AASTMT, marking an important milestone for refugees who completed their training. Beyond celebrating achievements, the graduation events provided a moment of recognition and encouragement, reinforcing participants' confidence and motivation as they prepare to enter the labour market or expand their livelihood opportunities.

In addition to the ceremony, job fairs were organized, which provided opportunities for graduates to engage directly with employers and explore employment pathways. Activities included employer networking, soft skills sessions, and guidance on hiring procedures for refugees. The job fair in Aswan, held alongside the graduation event, further strengthened local labour market linkages and collaboration with the private sector.

Capacity-sharing

On 11 December, UNHCR attended the closing event of a project implemented in Alexandria, aimed at promoting cybersecurity and digital wellbeing. The event showcased the project's three phases: capacity building, participatory action research, and community-led initiatives. A key highlight was the engagement of refugee youth in implementing activities within Sudanese community schools to raise awareness on safe online practices.

Health and Nutrition

On 23 December, UNHCR met with Al-Ahli Hospital in Alexandria to discuss ways of enhancing healthcare access for refugees. The hospital expressed its willingness to support refugees' services and agreed to provide emergency care for certain vulnerable cases identified. This collaboration aims to ensure refugees in Alexandria have better access to affordable and timely healthcare, addressing critical gaps in medical support for the most vulnerable.

Social Cohesion

Social cohesion events held in Alexandria, Damietta, and Cairo by UNHCR partners brought together refugees and host community members in inclusive community spaces. Activities included cultural exchanges, artistic performances, product exhibitions, and children's activities, fostering interaction, mutual understanding, and peaceful coexistence. They created safe and welcoming spaces for dialogue, shared experiences, and community interaction, thus promoting inclusion and peaceful coexistence.

From 16 to 18 December, social cohesion activities were held by three Community Development Associations (CDAs), with support from UNHCR and Tdh. The events featured storytelling workshops, sports activities, and awareness sessions, bringing together refugees and Egyptians to foster inclusion and mutual understanding.

On 11 December, UNHCR, in collaboration with Tdh and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, organized a social cohesion forum. The event brought together participants from refugee-led organizations, CDAs various governmental institutions, and implementing and operational partners. The forum featured two roundtable discussions and a panel session on advancing social cohesion, alongside recreational and networking activities. Discussions focused on participants' understanding of social cohesion in the refugee context, current programs promoting inclusion, and shared visions for strengthening community ties.

On 1 December, UNHCR attended a social cohesion event at the Jesuit Cultural Centre, where the aim was to present the impact of the livelihood projects through a bazar to display the products of refugees. The event also included cultural performances by Sudanese bands which aimed to celebrate diversity, promote intercultural dialogue, and strengthen community bonds between refugees and host communities. These activities provided an opportunity for participants to appreciate the cultural heritage of the refugee population while fostering mutual understanding and social inclusion.

Funding Information

UNHCR is grateful for the crucial and generous contributions from its donors, who provide both earmarked and unearmarked funding to support its operations in Egypt in 2025, including for the Sudan and Syria responses.

UNHCR Egypt is also grateful for the crucial support of private donors from Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, MENA, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, UK, and the USA.

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